



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Streeter called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

3. Calendar and Communications

Councilor Flax reported on a food drive at Super Stop and Shop on March 12, 13 and 14.

4. Approval of Minutes

None.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

2010-0021 Labor Negotiations (2010 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to enter executive session at 7:07 p.m. to discuss 2010-0021 Labor Negotiations, and to invite the Town Manager, Joyce Sauchuk, and Doug Ackerman to attend.

The motion carried unanimously

The executive session concluded at 7:42 p.m.

2010-0052 Port Security Grant

Discussed

Chief Kelly Fogg described the request to apply for a grant to purchase a new police boat and for associated training to operate the boat. The Town's current boat, docked in Noank, is showing its age. The Town's jurisdiction runs from the Mystic River to the Thames River. Mayor Streeter questioned coordination with the City on maritime patrols. Chief Fogg noted that the boat has not been operational over the last couple of years, so it has not been available to the City or Stonington. Mayor Streeter sees this as a great opportunity to reduce duplication of effort.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0305 Council Goalsetting

Discussed

Councilors discussed the goals individually, making revisions and accepting the goals by consensus. Councilor Johnson was asked to rework his goal regarding economic development.

2009-0248 FYE 2011 Budget**Discussed**

Councilors reviewed a revised Budget Review Calendar that includes an additional date to meet with the Board of Education. The consensus of the Council was to start Saturday sessions at 9:00 a.m.

The Town Clerk has asked that the Town Council set a date for the RTM Budget Meeting on May 3rd.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to schedule the public hearing on the FYE 11 budget for March 29, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously

2003-0198 Public Water & Sewer on Flanders Road/Industrial area**Discussed**

The Town Manager noted that there is an existing referral on this subject. A fair amount of engineering work was done and a report was issued by the Flanders Road Utility Extension Committee. The Council ultimately set aside funds to study alternatives further, but that has not been done primarily due to a lack of staff time and changing economic conditions.

2006-0100 Thames Street Rehabilitation Study**Discussed**

The Council previously asked about the cost to repave Thames Street and Town Public Works staff has estimated \$940,000, strictly based on unit costs. The Town has also received the City of Groton's budget request and Mayor Popp has included \$2,850,000 in the Highway operating budget for Thames Street retaining wall replacement.

2009-0231 South Road Underpass Flooding**Discussed**

Town Manager Oefinger reviewed a memo from John Carrington providing an update on the most recent meeting with the Department of Transportation on this issue.

2009-0284 Judson Avenue Drainage**Discussed**

Town staff recently met with Judson Avenue residents. As a result of that meeting, there was a general consensus to study the issue further. The Capital Improvement Program will include a project to update the drainage analysis, look at current development, and fund improvements.

2010-0047 Parks and Recreation Proposal to Partner with US Paralympics**Discussed**

The Town Manager indicated he is not ready to make a recommendation on this item yet. The Town Attorney is reviewing the extensive agreement required by US Paralympics. Although there are no new costs, there is some question in light of the budget situation whether or not the Town can sustain the current programming.

2010-0051 Agreement with the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut to Establish an Agency Endowment Fund**Discussed**

Town Manager Oefinger explained that the Town does not have any standing endowments and more of an effort should be made to encourage people to make donations to the Town. This proposal will establish a program that allows people to make donations to the Library through an agreement with the Community Foundation.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0304

Adoption of Rules for Twenty-Seventh Town Council

Discussed

Councilors Kolnaski, O'Beirne, and Watson were appointed to the Temporary Rules Committee when the 27th Town Council took office. The Committee has solicited suggested changes to the Rules of the 26th Town Council that were adopted as temporary rules. Councilor O'Beirne noted minor modifications required as a result of the adoption of the new Charter and other minor changes. He indicated he would work with staff to modify the rules.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0053

Groton-New London Airport Runway Safety Buffers

Discussed

Councilor Watson expressed concern with a newspaper article regarding the Department of Transportation's desire to establish Runway Safety Buffers and the potential environmental impacts including impacts on shell fishing. The Council asked that this item be referred to the Shellfish Commission and Conservation Commission. The Town Manager noted the project has been discussed for 10 years and the Shellfish Commission and Conservation Commission have probably commented in the past.

Referred

This matter was referred to the Shellfish Commission and the Conservation Commission.

7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Streeter was approached by the Town Clerk about the terms and conditions of her employment. The Town Manager explained that the Town Clerk is not receiving health benefits at this point, but she will begin receiving them and they will be retroactive to February 1st. The Town Manager believes it is still desirable for the Council to determine what benefits the Town Clerk is entitled to.

Councilor Watson asked Mayor Popp for an accounting of how money was spent on Plant Street. The information was given to the Town Manager and copies will be distributed to the Town Council.

Richard Dixon provided a letter from Tim Tylaska regarding sewer and water on Flanders Road and a list of the companies located on Flanders Road.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.